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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10

11 BROOKMEAD PARTNERS, LP,
a Nevada limited partnership,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 Interinsurance Exchange Of
15 The Automobile Club, a California
business entity,
16 Saracia L.P. Shannahan, and
William P. Shannahan,
17 Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, a California
business entity,

18 Defendants.

19 HIGGS, FLETCHER & MACK, LLP,

20 Cross-Complainant,

21 v.

22 BROOKMEAD PARTNERS, LP,
23 a Nevada limited partnership, SARACIA
L.P. SHANNAHAN, and DOES 1-50,
24 inclusive

25 Cross-Defendants.

26

27 ///

28 ///

Case No. 08 CV 659 JLS (WMC)

**DECLARATION OF MICHAEL GIBSON
IN OPPOSITION TO EX PARTE
APPLICATION FOR EMERGENCY
RELIEF FROM ORDER DATED
JUNE 11, 2008**

Before the Honorable:
United States District Judge
Janis L. Sammartino

1 I, MICHAEL R. GIBSON, declare as follows:

2 **A. Introduction and Summary of this Declaration.**

3 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of California and
4 before this Court. I am an associate with the law firm of Defendant and Cross-
5 Complainant HIGGS, FLETCHER & MACK, LLP ("HF&M"), which is representing
6 itself in the above-captioned matter. The matters set forth herein are based upon my own
7 personal knowledge, except those expressly stated upon information and belief, which I
8 believe to be true.

9 2. The purpose of this declaration is twofold: to clarify the circumstances
10 under which HF&M filed its cross-complaint for interpleader; and to authenticate and
11 attach a copy of the transcript of the May 6, 2008 hearing before Judge Ashworth in the
12 state court family law matter.

13 **B. The Circumstances of HF&M's Interpleader Action.**

14 3. In the matter of *In re the Marriage of Shannahan*, on or about April 11,
15 2008, the Superior Court for the State of California, County of San Diego, through
16 Honorable Thomas Ashworth, III (Ret.), issued an order directing as follows:

17 "The proceeds of the check from Interinsurance
18 Exchange of the Automobile Club check #5582308 or
19 any replacement check in the amount of \$957,525.23
20 shall be deposited into an interest-bearing segregated
21 client trust account of Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, LLP, on
22 or before close of business April 11, 2008. In the event
23 that the proceeds are not so deposited by that date, then
24 they shall be deposited to an interest-bearing segregated
25 client trust account with the Law Offices of Beatrice L.
26 Snider, APC."

27 4. On May 27, 2008, AAA issued a check in the amount of \$957,525.23
28 (the "Payment") made payable to HF&M. Consistent with Judge Ashworth's Order,
HF&M deposited the funds into a segregated, interest-bearing client trust account where
they remain today.

1 5. On or about April 11, 2008, Plaintiff and Cross-Defendant Brookmead
2 Partners, LP ("Brookmead") filed a complaint commencing this action. Thereafter, on or
3 about May 29, 2008, Brookmead filed a first amended complaint which added HF&M as a
4 defendant. Brookmead's operative complaint arises out of its claim to the Payment. In
5 addition to HF&M, Brookmead named Saracia L.P. Shannahan as a defendant and
6 outlined her competing claim to the Payment.

7 6. In response to Brookmead's complaint, and in light of the fact that HF&M
8 is not making a claim for the Payment, HF&M filed an answer to Brookmead's complaint
9 and concurrently filed a cross-complaint in interpleader on or about May 29, 2008,
10 naming Brookmead and Mrs. Shannahan as cross-defendants based upon their competing
11 claims for the Payment. Attached to the cross-complaint was a copy of Judge Ashworth's
12 Order.

13 7. Prior to filing the cross-complaint, I instructed my staff to contact the clerk
14 for Judge Janis L. Sammartino and the business office of the United States District Court,
15 Southern District of California, in order to determine the most efficient procedure by
16 which HF&M could deposit the Payment with the Court. During those discussions, we
17 were advised to file the cross-complaint in normal course and to e-mail a draft order
18 permitting HF&M to deposit the Payment to Judge Sammartino's chambers directly. At
19 that time, I expected the draft order would not be approved before the parties had an
20 opportunity to respond to HF&M's cross-complaint, and to brief the Court on the facts
21 and circumstances surrounding the Payment and competing claims for same. Consistent
22 with the Court's directive, HF&M filed its cross-complaint and e-mailed a draft order to
23 Judge Sammartino's chambers.

24 8. After filing the firm's cross-complaint, I contacted Davry Mack Cohan,
25 counsel for Brookmead, in order to ascertain the most efficient means of effecting service
26 of the cross-complaint upon Mrs. Shannahan. During those discussions, Mr. Cohan
27 advised that Mrs. Shannahan was evading service, but that Jill Sullivan of Chapin
28 Wheeler, LLP, would represent Mrs. Shannahan in this action. Accordingly, on June 11,

1 2008, I wrote to Ms. Sullivan and respectfully requested that she agree to accept service
 2 of HF&M's cross-complaint.

3 9. By coincidence, on the same day I sent my letter to Ms. Sullivan, the Court
 4 issued its Order permitting HF&M to deposit the Payment with the Court. While I was
 5 surprised that the order had issued, it did not cause me any particular alarm, as I already
 6 knew from discussions with my partner, attorney John Morris, that he did not intend to
 7 actually *deposit* the insurance proceeds in the federal court action until it was finally
 8 resolved in the state court divorce action whether Judge Ashworth intended to exercise
 9 continuing jurisdiction over those funds.

10 **C. Authentication of Attached Exhibit**
 11

12 10. Attached to this declaration is a true and correct copy of the entire
 13 transcript of the hearing before Judge Ashworth on May 6, 2008. This is submitted for
 14 the general purpose of showing: (a) that Judge Ashworth was well aware of this federal
 15 declaratory relief action; and (b) that Judge Ashworth was of the initial opinion that the
 16 state court probably would not have jurisdiction over the insurance proceeds once he
 17 entered Judgment in the state court action, and that, in any event, *this Court*, having
 18 supremacy over the state court, was the probably the proper forum in which to resolve
 19 this dispute.

20 I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that
 21 the foregoing is true and correct.

22 Executed this 8th day of July 2008, at San Diego, California.

23 
 24 MICHAEL R. GIBSON
 25
 26
 27
 28

Hearing - 5/6/2008

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

In re the Marriage of:

Petitioner: SARACIA SHANNAHAN

and CASE NO: D 483710

Respondent: WILLIAM PAUL SHANNAHAN

_____/ JAMS HEARING

Taken at San Diego, California

May 6, 2008

Reported by Dana E. Simon - CSR
Certificate No. 12683

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I N D E X

2

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MAY 6, 2008

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INDEX OF EXHIBITS

8

(None offered)

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Certificate/Stipulation page

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1 On Tuesday, May 6, 2008, commencing at the
2 hour of 10:40 a.m., at 401 B Street, Suite 2100, in the
3 City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of
4 California, before me, Dana E. Simon, Certified
5 Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of California,

6 the following hearing was then conducted:

7

8 A P P E A R A N C E S

9 HONORARY THOMAS ASHWORTH III (Ret.) JAMS
10 FOR THE PETITIONER:

11 LAW OFFICES OF BEATRICE L. SNIDER
12 BY: WIN HEISKALA, ESQ.
13 9663 Tierra Grande, Suite 301
14 San Diego, California 92126
15 (619) 566-6650

16 FOR THE RESPONDENT:

17 SANDLER, LASRY, LAUBE, BYER & VALDEZ:
18 BY: EDWARD I. SILVERMAN, ESQ.
19 (Specially appearing for John Morris and
20 Darvy Mack Cohan)
21 402 West Broadway, Suite 1700
22 San Diego, California 92101
23 (619) 235-5655

24 FOR INTERINSURANCE EXCHANGE OF THE AAA:

25 SMITH, SMITH & FEELEY, LP
26 BY: STEPHEN E. SMITH, ESQ.
27 2601 Main Street, Suite 580
28 Irvine, California 92614
29 (949) 263-5920

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1 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA; MAY 6, 2008; 10:40 A.M.
2
34 THE COURT: We're going to go on the record
5 now. This is the marriage of the Petitioner Saracia
6 Shannahan and the Respondent William Paul Shannahan, and
7 the case number is D 483710. And I'm going to ask for
8 appearances, since we also have appearances from AAA
9 Insurance Company, as I understand it.10 And let me start with the Petitioner side of
11 the case.12 MR. HEISKALA: Your Honor, Win Heiskala, on
13 behalf of Saracia Shannahan, who is also present.14 MS. O'NEILL: Alexandra O'Neill on behalf of
15 Saracia Shannahan, who is present.16 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Now we'll
17 start with Mr. Shannahan's side of the case.18 MR. SILVERMAN: Edward Silverman, appearing
19 specially for John Morris and Darvy Mach Cohan, who
20 represent Mr. Shannahan and Virginia Way, LP,
21 respectively.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

23 MR. SMITH: And Stephen Smith for
24 Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club, AAA, if
25 you will. And this is Mr. Polson, P-o-l-s-o-n, of

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1 Interinsurance Exchange, who is the claim adjustor on
2 the file.

3 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. We did have
4 some discussions off the record, some fairly extensive
5 discussions. And, first, I would like to deal with my
6 understanding of the issues involving the insurance
7 company, and then we're going to get to the issues that
8 are directly between the parties that deal with such
9 things as a motion for a new trial and a motion to
10 essentially enter a different judgment, if I can call it
11 that, since we don't have a judgment entered at this
12 point.

13 And so let me start with the insurance company.
14 My understanding of what we discussed off the record was
15 the insurance company wanted some direction as to what
16 should be done with funds that they are -- have either
17 already paid out, anticipate paying out, or have
18 offered, but then have -- for one reason or another,
19 payment has been stopped on them.

20 And we have a motion pending to join the
21 insurance company, and we also have a case involving --
22 I believe that involves potentially the insurance
23 company that has now been filed in federal court.

24 To start out with, I agree with Mr. Shannahan's
25 position, and probably the insurance company, that in

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1 the motion to join the insurance company, there was not
2 proper notice of that motion. And so any hearing on
3 that, I would be continuing for a sufficient time for a
4 response.

5 However, in my view, we have a resolution that
6 I believe is acceptable to the insurance company that
7 will make a joinder unnecessary, number one, and, number
8 two, I would be disinclined to join the insurance
9 company until I know what is going to happen in federal
10 court in any event. In other words, if they're going to
11 take over this aspect of the case, there's no reason to
12 join the insurance company.

13 But more importantly from my standpoint, I
14 don't think there's any reason to join the insurance
15 company, anyway, as long as there is some control over
16 the insurance funds. Now, my understanding of what we
17 agreed to is that there are three different forms of
18 payment that are pending now. There may be some
19 subcategories. But one payment is for something in the
20 range of \$900,000.

21 MR. SMITH: If I might, \$957,525.23.

22 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. That
23 payment has been proffered, but we've had difficulty how
24 it ought to be payable and where it is going. And
25 included within that number is \$44,000, or thereabouts,

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1 that is intended to clean up the debris on this
2 property. And the balance of it relates to replacement
3 of the structure, as I understand it.

4 Now, I previously ordered that that check be
5 payable to both parties and deposited into a separate
6 interest-bearing trust account, meaning not in an
7 unsegregated client trust account, where the funds would
8 go -- or the interest would go to the state. But I
9 wanted segregated so the interest would go to the
10 parties once it's deposited.

11 And I had originally ordered that that would go
12 to Higgs, Fletcher & Mack. I'm modifying that order in
13 these respects: Number one, I'm ordering that the check
14 be payable to the Higgs, Fletcher & Mack. And should
15 the wording be segregated trust account or trust account
16 for the benefit of the parties? Let's discuss the
17 wording exactly.

18 MR. SILVERMAN: Since I brought it up earlier,
19 my concern was that the Court was just talking about the
20 Higgs, Fletcher trust account. And that is the one we
21 would not want.

22 THE COURT: Correct.

23 MR. HEISKALA: It was put in trust for it, that
24 one.

25 MR. SILVERMAN: I understand the Court's

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1 concept and whatever language the Court is comfortable
2 with.

3 MR. SMITH: And I think, you know, if it's made
4 payable to Higgs, Fletcher & Mack, and the memo says,
5 you know, "in trust for," and there's a cover letter
6 that will send that says this is -- they're officers of
7 the court. They're going to do the right thing with it.
8 I'm not worried about that.

9 THE COURT: All right. Fine. Then that is how
10 I would like to have that money paid. If for any
11 reason -- and I'm saying this because Mr. Shannahan's
12 attorney has indicated that he did not want the funds,
13 as I understand it, payable into this trust account. If
14 that continues to be his position, then it is going to
15 be paid into the trust account of Ms. Shannahan's
16 attorneys.

17 And so we would need to know, Mr. Silverman,
18 whether it is okay for them to make the payment that way
19 or whether Mr. Morris, as Mr. Shannahan's attorney has
20 been told, that he cannot do that. So that needs to be
21 communicated to the insurance company and to Ms.
22 Heiskala.

23 MR. SILVERMAN: I'll be meeting with Mr. Morris
24 tomorrow. And if he can get back to Ms. Heiskala after
25 that --

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1 THE COURT: Fine.

2 MR. SILVERMAN: Tomorrow is Wednesday. I don't
3 know if Mr. Shannahan's in town. Maybe by Monday.

4 THE COURT: Okay. That's fine.

5 MR. SILVERMAN: By Monday, Mr. Morris will get
6 in touch with Ms. Heiskala.

7 THE COURT: Okay. Now, I do not intend that
8 this requires any separate order. This is either one or
9 the other in the first choice, because it's the way I
10 made the order originally is the Higgs Fletcher account.

11 MR. SMITH: May I make a suggestion? How about
12 if we -- maybe if the Court could rule something to the
13 effect that if we don't have, you know, authorization
14 from Mr. Morris by next Friday, which would be -- I
15 don't know what date that is -- the 16th, if we don't
16 have an agreement that the check is going to be payable
17 to Higgs, Fletcher & Mack and deposited, then we'll
18 go through --

19 THE COURT: I'm just going to change that
20 slightly, and I think that should be by Wednesday. I
21 just don't want these founds out. So that's the 14th.

22 MR. SMITH: Okay.

23 THE COURT: Rather than waiting to the end
24 of --

25 MR. SMITH: Okay.

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1 MR. HEISKALA: So I think that's a better plan.
2 You're to be noticed. Not me, right?

3 MR. SMITH: Yes. If they don't give me
4 authorization by the 14th that the check can be made
5 payable to Higgs, Fletcher & Mack and that they are
6 going to actually deposit it -- because I don't want to
7 go through the exercise of issuing a check and then
8 having it just sit there and --

9 MR. HEISKALA: Right.

10 THE COURT: Absolutely. Okay. That's a good
11 suggestion. And that's what's ordered.

12 MR. SILVERMAN: Let me just clarify that John
13 is to get in touch with Mr. Smith by Wednesday the 14th
14 that Higgs Fletcher will accept and deposit the check
15 under the terms of the Court just stated, or else the
16 insurer will issue the check to Ms. Heiskala's office.

17 THE COURT: Correct.

18 MR. HEISKALA: Close of business by the 14th?

19 MR. SMITH: Sure. Sure.

20 THE COURT: Now, next statement, there are also
21 funds that are anticipated to be paid out relating to
22 personal property residence contents that were
23 destroyed. And anything paid in that regard is to be
24 deposited into the same account. Also, the insurance
25 company has already provided Ms. Shannahan with

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1 photographs and an inventory of those items that were
2 destroyed. And in addition to that, the insurance
3 company has restored certain items.

4 Ms. Shannahan does not have the inventory of
5 those items, but the insurance company has graciously
6 agreed to provide her with the information that they
7 have of which items were destroyed. Mr. Shannahan may
8 continue to keep those items in his possession where
9 they presently are, pending further court order, because
10 we haven't divided up the personal property, which is
11 not a concern of the insurance companies.

12 MR. SILVERMAN: Could I ask the Court to
13 request the insurer to also make available to
14 Mr. Shannahan a copy of whatever he sends to
15 Ms. Shannahan?

16 MR. SMITH: No problem.

17 THE COURT: Yes. That's reasonable. The only
18 reason I didn't do that initially is he has the items,
19 and he can see what they are. But I agree that it's a
20 good idea in case there's a debate later on regarding
21 something. They can work off the same document.

22 MR. SILVERMAN: Correct. And also for the
23 record, I'd like to object that dealing with the
24 personal property issue and the insurance proceeds
25 wasn't noticed. And I am at a loss as to what

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1 Mr. Shannahan's position would be.

2 THE COURT: I'm going to do it, anyway, because
3 I'm trying to avoid joining the insurance company down
4 the line. There's going to be -- when I'm finished with
5 it, there's no reason to join them at all.

6 MR. SILVERMAN: I appreciate the explanation.

7 THE COURT: And that's why I'm doing this. And
8 I do have that motion before me, although there's a
9 question about the adequacy of the service. So I think
10 it gives me some power in that area.

11 The final payment is that they're presently
12 paying \$8,000 a month to Mr. Shannahan for him to have
13 substitute housing. And as I understand it, that's for
14 a period of a year. They've already paid five months of
15 it or so, something like that. So that there -- but the
16 understanding is, and what I'm ordering is that that
17 would continue to be paid to Mr. Shannahan on a monthly
18 basis, and that he is entitled to receive those monies
19 in order to provide for his housing since his home has
20 been largely destroyed, other than the fact that there
21 may be a homeless person living there.

22 Now, the reason that I've asked that this be
23 paid on a monthly basis is because at the present time,
24 Ms. Shannahan has housing in Virginia Way, which is
25 something I found to be another item of community

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1 property for these parties. And as long as she's
2 provided with that lodging, then I think it's reasonable
3 that Mr. Shannahan would also have a place to live.

4 What would be a change of circumstances which
5 would justify a modification of that order, which
6 wouldn't affect the insurance company, other than where
7 the money perhaps is paid, would be if the federal court
8 action acts as sort of an unlawful detainer that removes
9 Ms. Shannahan from Virginia Way at some point, while
10 this money is still being paid out to provide for
11 Mr. Shannahan's housing.

12 Under those circumstances, I might well require
13 that Mr. Shannahan pay a portion of that to
14 Ms. Shannahan since she's the one that would also need
15 housing then. Right now, he is paying presumably
16 Virginia Way LP for whatever the lease arrangements are
17 in order to allow Ms. Shannahan to remain in Virginia
18 Way. And under those circumstances, I think he's
19 entitled to the \$8000 a month for his housing.

20 Now, as far as I am concerned, I am willing to
21 continue the joinder of the insurance company in that
22 related motion to sometime in the future, because I
23 don't think that a joinder is necessary here. There's
24 no -- nothing that we need to do involving the insurance
25 company. I think that's an imposition on the insurance

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1 company. And I must say that they've been the most
2 cooperative party that we've had in this litigation and
3 are remarkably flexible.

4 And I will -- if I didn't already have USAA, I
5 would end up with AAA. So that's where we are on that.

6 Now, as far as I am concerned, the insurance
7 company may, but is not required to, remain around for
8 the remainder of these proceedings. The only question
9 that I have -- would you prefer, Ms. Heiskala, that we
10 reset this if it becomes relevant, or would you prefer
11 that we fix sort of an arbitrary date so we have it
12 here? There's some things that need to happen before I
13 can act on it. I'm not going to interfere -- obviously,
14 even if I had the power, I wouldn't try to interfere
15 with the federal proceeding.

16 But more importantly, there is still a
17 supremacy clause. And I think I have to acknowledge
18 that. And if they decided to take over this aspect of
19 the case, I've lost, I think, jurisdiction to do
20 anything there. And so I want to give them that
21 opportunity.

22 But more importantly, there's no reason to
23 involve the insurance company, because everything that
24 we wanted accomplished is already accomplished with
25 their consent, which is certainly appreciated.

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1 And so what I would like to know at this point,
2 though, before we go any further is: Is there anything
3 that I have said that is objectionable from the
4 insurance company's standpoint at this time? Or to put
5 it a different way, are you willing to voluntarily
6 comply since I don't have you joined with these terms
7 that are orders really between these two parties at this
8 point, is my question.

9 MR. SMITH: I'm a company man, so I'm going to
10 do what you say. There's no objection, honestly. The
11 insurance company all the way along just wants to get
12 rid of the money. And, you know, my preference on the
13 loss of use would have just been to pay out the entire
14 chunk. But I understand we're going to do it on a
15 month-by-month basis. And we're perfectly willing to
16 comply with all the orders that you're making, or have
17 made, I guess I should say.

18 MR. POLSON: With regards to that, should we
19 make the payment by a certain date at each month? So
20 for instance, the 25th of each month, if we don't hear
21 one way or the other, go ahead and issue payment? Is
22 there any -- is that all right?

23 MR. HEISKALA: That's fine with me.

24 MR. SILVERMAN: If I can ask the company how
25 they've been making the payments to Ms. Shannahan so

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1 far?

2 MR. SMITH: Originally, there was a three-month
3 advance. And then after that, I think it was after we
4 discovered there was this issue. I think it's pretty
5 month been a month-to-month thereafter. Usually about,
6 you know, the third week of the month or the next month.

7 THE COURT: Well, it is my intention that that
8 just continue the way you have been doing it. Except
9 now, it's -- since you went over to paying on a monthly
10 basis, that it would continue in the same time frame.
11 I'm not intending to alter that.

12 MR. SILVERMAN: That would be Mr. Shannahan's
13 request.

14 MR. SMITH: Right. We'll keep doing that until
15 we get some notice that there's a change in the Court's
16 order.

17 THE COURT: All right. And if we pick a new
18 date -- I won't make you wait around for that -- but if
19 we pick a new date, I will ask that Ms. Heiskala at
20 least inform you as to what it is.

21 MR. SMITH: Perfect. Fine.

22 THE COURT: But for right now, I don't see any
23 purpose in it, really. So whether we set it without
24 date at the moment or we pick an actual date so it
25 doesn't look like it's drifted off somewhere, which

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1 would be arbitrary, and then probably would have to be
2 changed, depending on how events evolve.

3 And I'm not asking -- because I don't think
4 it's fair, Mr. Silverman, to ask you to agree to any of
5 this. Because it really -- your client isn't here. And
6 I don't think you have authority one way or the other on
7 it. Although, you've certainly looked out after your
8 client's interests. But I don't think it would be
9 reasonable to ask you to agree to it, and I don't think
10 you have that authority.

11 MR. SILVERMAN: And I appreciate it. We did
12 object to the notice, and a continuance is certainly a
13 response the Court can order.

14 THE COURT: Yeah. And I would like to know
15 from a due process standpoint, though, what would you
16 consider a reasonable time? I don't care what it is.
17 Because as I've said, I don't see us having to act on
18 that, in any event.

19 MR. SILVERMAN: The {inaudible} days required
20 under the Code of Civil Procedure 1015.

21 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to continue at
22 least a month, so it really doesn't make any difference.
23 It will be outside, though, of what the notice is that
24 you're entitled to under the Code. Okay. So we will
25 deal with that part.

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1 Now, I don't think there's any reason, unless
2 you just enjoy being here.

3 (Mr. Smith and Mr. Polson leave the room).

4 THE COURT: All right. We're back on the
5 record again. And now I would like to revisit the
6 question that I asked earlier, Mr. Silverman, and that
7 is: Is it your position that a new trial motion can be
8 filed before we have a judgment?

9 MR. SILVERMAN: Yes. Referring to Code of
10 Civil Procedure Section 659, Subdivision one, I'd be
11 glad to read to the Court: "The party intending to move
12 for a new trial must file with the clerk and serve upon
13 each adverse party a notice of his intention to move for
14 a new trial, designating the grounds upon which the
15 motion will be made, and whether the same will be made
16 upon affidavits or the minutes of the Court or both,
17 either before entry of judgment," or -- and Subdivision
18 two deals with that.

19 THE COURT: All right. Now, I got what I will
20 call a generic notice of intent to seek a new trial,
21 which is permitted by that, apparently. And then I have
22 a more detailed assertion as to what the grounds are,
23 and I am receiving those documents into evidence. And
24 as I understood it, you've intended to submit on the
25 documentation at this point, at least initially; is that

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1 correct?

2 MR. HEISKALA: That's correct, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right. And Ms. Heiskala, I
4 think I want to deal with that aspect of this first.
5 And so I am also receiving into evidence your response
6 to the new trial motion and your points and authorities.
7 It had always been my understanding that -- exactly what
8 Counsel said. And that is that you could file a motion
9 for a new trial before or after judgment. And I have
10 done that properly.

11 So I don't think there's a legal issue here. I
12 think it's more a question of whether any of their
13 stated grounds. They did withdraw the one about the
14 jury verdict.

15 MR. HEISKALA: On a procedural note, I don't
16 think there's any affidavits to support the portions of
17 the motion to set aside that they're required to file.
18 I didn't see anything. At least we didn't receive any
19 affidavit with respect to the portion that would be
20 covered by that.

21 But on the merits, I don't think there's any
22 sufficient grounds on any of the points raised.
23 Certainly, there was enough evidence before the Court to
24 support the finding of \$5000 per month income, or
25 spousal support, I should say, for the Petitioner.

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1 He has available to him income from a variety
2 of sources, including the retirement accounts, and that
3 income would go beyond the mandatory withdrawal that's
4 required under the IRS. And also include accelerated
5 withdrawals and the earnings on those accounts. That
6 evidence was certainly presented at trial. His income
7 from his practice, and other entities under his control.

8 So the evidence is more than sufficient. And I
9 would submit to the Court that, whatever they submitted
10 in questioning that, did not rise to any critical
11 statement and no evidence to support their claim that
12 there was no evidence.

13 The retirement accounts, he said that it was
14 definitely traced. I think if anything happened in this
15 case, it was nothing was definitely traced. I think
16 your Honor's already noted that there was some -- a lot
17 of confusion about debts claimed and where they came
18 from and what entity. The notes referred to with
19 respect to the Court's finding on Virginia Way, which is
20 going to be adjusted, I think, with respect to value,
21 they were not definitely traced to any account or any
22 entity. Certainly not any specific retirement account.
23 They were formed during the marriage. To the extent
24 they were formed, they deserve to be treated as
25 community proper.

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1 The Boyle Trust, there was absolutely no
2 evidence supported -- provided that I can recall in that
3 trial to support the characterization of separate
4 property. So that there was absolutely no evidence to
5 overcome the presumption of community property. It's
6 actually the reverse of Mr. Shannahan would have the
7 Court believe, that he had the evidence to support
8 separate property. He did not.

9 Virginia Way doesn't consider the separate
10 property portion he's claiming. The Court does not
11 consider the separate property portion of Virginia Way.
12 However, he waived his separate property claims on
13 Virginia Way at the trial, number one, and, he appears
14 to be willing to double count the debt against the
15 property, as well as against the retirement account.

16 For all those reasons, the motion should be
17 denied.

18 THE COURT: All right. And a reply to that
19 response, please.

20 MR. SILVERMAN: Yes. Thank you. First of all,
21 Mrs. Shannahan's objection to the procedural part is
22 entirely unfounded. And she cites the Haferkamp case.
23 That case involved a situation where there was no
24 statement of decision. So under those circumstances,
25 the motion for a new trial was premature. We don't have

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1 that here.

2 THE COURT: No. I think wasn't that an
3 unlawful detainer case?

4 MR. SILVERMAN: It was. And, secondly, the
5 objection with regard to the affidavit does not apply to
6 Subdivisions five, six, or seven. And those are the
7 bases on which the motion ultimately was made.

8 THE COURT: All right. Anything further?

9 MR. SILVERMAN: No. Thank you.

10 THE COURT: All right. On that, in the first
11 place, I am finding that the motion for a new trial is
12 procedurally correct. That is to say, it could be filed
13 before the judgment was entered, number one; number two,
14 I am denying the motion for a new trial.

15 I realize that this is typically in
16 anticipation of an appeal, and it's a necessary step, or
17 probably a desirable step in that direction. But that's
18 where we stand on the new trial motion.

19 Now, I've got a 663 motion that is filed on
20 behalf of Virginia Way LP that essentially objects to my
21 order insofar as it affects them. And they are -- so to
22 the extent they have a separate motion, I am receiving
23 that into evidence. And I am denying that motion. So
24 I'm denying both the CCP 663 motion which is the --
25 which specifically states an incorrect or erroneous

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1 legal basis for the decision, not consistent with or not
2 supported by the facts under CCP 663 (1), as
3 distinguished from a new generic new trial motion that I
4 had on behalf of Mr. Shannahan.

5 And so that is also denied. Now --

6 MR. SILVERMAN: May I ask for clarification,
7 and I will be entirely frank with the Court. I base
8 this question on -- it's a personal question for me as
9 counsel who has now heard the ruling. It is not
10 something that was on my list to get the Court to say
11 one way or the other. I am confused. Is the Court's
12 ruling -- and let's just take Virginia Way -- that the
13 residence is community property or that the limited
14 partnership interest in Virginia Way LP is community
15 property? And if I've opened up a whole can of worms, I
16 apologize.

17 THE COURT: No. That's a legitimate question.
18 What I am finding is that the property itself, the
19 residence, the land it's on, is community property. And
20 the fact that Mr. Shannahan has placed title to the
21 property in a limited partnership, what I found was that
22 was a breach of his fiduciary duty. That was not done
23 with fully informed consent by the Petitioner.

24 And so I'm not saying that she owns the limited
25 partnership as community property. I am saying that she

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1 owns the underlying asset held by that limited
2 partnership. That may be a distinction without a
3 difference, in some ways. But what I am saying is that
4 if this was acquired during the marriage, it is
5 presumptively community property. That presumption, in
6 my view, was not overcome. And the fact that he has
7 used various legal entities to own the property was not
8 done in a way that it changed her community property
9 interest in the underlying asset. That's the way I'm
10 looking at this conceptually.

11 But it does present an interesting question.
12 But I am saying that the asset itself, she owns one half
13 of the equity in that property. And not through the
14 limited partnership, but through her community property
15 interest.

16 MR. HEISKALA: If I may on that point, your
17 Honor. I think the confusion is the use of the word
18 "own." Because Mr. Shannahan seemed to run with that
19 word into federal court, saying -- quoting this decision
20 that, you know, he owns Brookmeade. So I think the
21 concept needs to be, and that's one of the
22 clarifications we're asking for, is that community
23 property rights override that ownership. Title may be
24 claimed in another asset. He may claim that it's
25 transferred to some other entity. But the bundle of

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1 rights of ownership, if you will, are subservient to the
2 finding of community property.

3 THE COURT: Is that different from what I said,
4 though?

5 MR. HEISKALA: Well, it seems to be understood
6 differently. I think when you're using the word
7 "ownership," he took that as -- that's the basis of his
8 claim, that Brookmeade Partners owns the Brookmeade
9 property.

10 THE COURT: But does have title to it.

11 MR. HEISKALA: But that's not what he's saying.
12 Brookmeade Partners does not have title.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Well, that may be. I
14 thought it did.

15 MR. HEISKALA: No. No. That's why I'm saying
16 that. That wording -- I understand what the Court is
17 saying. And I think it's -- you're saying that she has
18 a -- or the community has an interest in that property.
19 But the wording in the judgment that says something
20 about owning -- and I'll find it for your Honor here.
21 The title is in Northwest Financial.

22 THE COURT: That's right. But regardless of
23 whether it's in Brookmeade Partners or in Northwest
24 Financial, the point is it's not in the name of these
25 parties.

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1 MR. HEISKALA: Correct.

2 THE COURT: And it's not held in community
3 property or joint tenancy that would be presumed to be
4 community.

5 MR. HEISKALA: Correct.

6 THE COURT: And so I am saying that the
7 underlying asset is community property.

8 MR. HEISKALA: Right.

9 THE COURT: And I don't know how to put that
10 any clearer or differently. But Mr. Silverman was kind
11 enough to ask me to clarify what I'm talking about. And
12 I'm -- I'm trying to think of whether there's a way to
13 be clearer about that. I am not saying that she owns in
14 some way Brookmeade Partners or Northwest Financial.
15 What I am saying is she owns the underlying asset as
16 community property.

17 MR. HEISKALA: And that was what we were
18 attempting to address in our supplemental.

19 THE COURT: And if that's unclear, the judgment
20 should state that it's owned as community property, both
21 of those. That was my intention. I thought I had said
22 that. But I can see why -- and that the title did not
23 somehow -- in other words, the change of entities that
24 hold title to this property, which is changed from time
25 to time, that doesn't change the community property

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1 nature of the ownership of the property.

2 MR. HEISKALA: Right.

3 THE COURT: And so however that needs to be
4 worded.

5 MR. HEISKALA: I took a stab at it in my
6 supplemental on page 4.

7 MR. SILVERMAN: To which we object. That was
8 four day's notice. It is entirely new language. It is
9 essentially challenging the statement of decision that
10 has already been objected to and is final. There is no
11 judgment that needs correcting. If there are hassles in
12 dealing with the language of the judgment, we should
13 cover those in due course. But proposing language in a
14 pleading submitted four days before the hearing is not a
15 motion to change a judgment.

16 MR. HEISKALA: On the timing --

17 THE COURT: That is correct. Although, I will
18 say that the original motion to enter a judgment
19 different than announced, and which in itself is
20 somewhat questionable as far as the characterization of
21 it. But the point is, I think I'm entitled to, before a
22 judgment is entered, to have the judgment say what I
23 want it to say. All right?

24 Now, I agree that the correct process is for
25 judgment to be prepared. And before we leave this

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1 morning, I am going to direct that Ms. Heiskala prepare
2 that within a specific period of time for your approval
3 or for the approval of your side. And then to the
4 extent there's an argument about it, I will resolve
5 that.

6 But I thought as a preview of coming
7 attractions, so to speak, I -- two things: Number one,
8 I made a mistake as far as the gross value of Virginia
9 Way, and it should be \$1,550,000. That's number one.

10 Number two, it is correct -- and I thought that
11 my statement of decision was clear on this, but I can
12 see how it might not be, and it may have even spawned
13 this federal case -- but my intention was that the
14 underlying asset, these two properties, be community
15 property. Not that she have an interest in the business
16 entities that were set up by Mr. Shannahan. And that
17 whole area is very confused because they have ownership
18 interests in each other, and there are various problems
19 with being involved in that.

20 But as far as I'm concerned as between these
21 two parties, what he owes her is one half of the equity
22 in the property. And I really -- and that is between
23 these two parties. And that is the community property
24 portion of it, as differentiated from these various
25 entities that Mr. Shannahan set up, that I found that to

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1 the extent that he was intending, or they had the affect
2 of divesting her of her community property interests,
3 that that is a violation of his fiduciary duty; that he
4 can't, under the guise of estate planning, without a
5 very specific waiver from her which he did not have,
6 effect that. Whereas so she no longer has a community
7 interest in the underlying property. And to the
8 extent -- let me jump ahead for just a moment.

9 How long do you need to prepare this judgment?

10 MR. HEISKALA: With the clarifications today,
11 your Honor, I think probably 10 to 20 days. 10, 15
12 days, I guess.

13 MR. SILVERMAN: We'll be glad to take a stab at
14 it in five and get it to Counsel.

15 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to compromise this.
16 I want Ms. Heiskala's office as the Petitioner to
17 prepare this. And at least based on what's happened so
18 far, I think it's more likely to be in line with what I
19 intended in my statement of decision than if
20 Mr. Shannahan has to approve it and it comes from his
21 side. I don't know that, but that's my concern.

22 And I'm going to limit that to 10 days. So
23 today is the 6th. That would be the 15th -- would be
24 the 16th, which I think is Friday, is it not, of next
25 week? And so by noon on Friday of next week, I want the

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1 judgment prepared for the approval of Mr. Shannahan.

2 Within how many days would you want -- all I
3 want is the proposed judgment and a writing with any
4 objections to it. Not a different judgment so I have to
5 prepare -- or compare them. What I want is the
6 objections to the way they prepared them, and that could
7 include additions as well as changes.

8 And then I will, from there, have the judgment
9 prepared after considering that. Because I think if
10 it's done any other way, we'll be here for a long time.
11 And I want to get the judgment entered. And I'm willing
12 to give up to 10 days if you would like that to respond.

13 MR. SILVERMAN: That would be fine, your Honor.
14 Obviously if Mr. Morris gets it done sooner, he'll get
15 it to you and Ms. Heiskala.

16 THE COURT: And if you'd simply approve it and
17 send it to me for my signature. I recognize that there
18 are likely to be objections for a number of reasons.
19 That if you're protecting rights on appeal and for other
20 reasons. I don't -- and I'm not asking approval as to
21 substance or anything. I'm just talking about approval
22 as to form on this. But, anyway, I do want to get it
23 entered so the objections would be stated.

24 Now, I would like to -- and as far as I am
25 concerned, those two changes can be made in your

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1 proposed judgment, along with whatever else you want to
2 put in there. And they will object to them. And I'll
3 decide which one or the other I want to sign.

4 Now, there's one other thing. You wanted an
5 order for a judicial lien, in quotes, whatever that is,
6 or in parentheses.

7 MR. HEISKALA: Yes.

8 THE COURT: And for the attorney's fees that I
9 ordered of \$150,000.

10 MR. HEISKALA: And for my client's share of the
11 assets, because I have a rising concern about what's
12 happening with these retirement accounts and --

13 MR. SILVERMAN: May I be heard, your Honor?

14 THE COURT: Please.

15 MR. SILVERMAN: Instead of --

16 MR. HEISKALA: Sorry. Just wrapping up his --
17 instead of any hint of compliance with what the Court's
18 ordered, I think he's looking for any which way he can
19 to not make it happen, so --

20 THE COURT: Let me -- I realize I'm jumping
21 around a little bit. In terms of the proposed judgment,
22 it was my intention that we continued with the same
23 arrangement, other than the \$3000 going to \$5000 we had
24 under the temporary order. And that included the fact
25 that her right to occupy the Virginia Way residence

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1 while Mr. Shannahan was responsible for the lease
2 payments on it would not be considered as deductible
3 spousal support or as income to Ms. Shannahan. That
4 part of it.

5 MR. HEISKALA: But it's part of her support.

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. SILVERMAN: May I be heard on that, as
8 well?

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 MR. SILVERMAN: Two points I'd like to make.
11 The first is it's unclear to me whether the Court is
12 making this award as permanent support or temporary
13 support.

14 THE COURT: It's temporary.

15 MR. SILVERMAN: Okay. And then secondly, the
16 substantive objection is that this -- if it is spousal
17 support, then it should be deductible to him and income
18 to her. Or then it is a distribution of property as far
19 as equalization payment.

20 THE COURT: Well, as you probably know under
21 the Tax Code, support can be deductible or
22 nondeductible, and I'm making it nondeductible. And so
23 that's -- I intend that she gets the benefit without
24 having to pay taxes on it. And I believe that I have
25 the power to do that.

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1 And by the way, when I say it is temporary,
2 that is a little bit misleading. It is intended to
3 be part of the permanent support package. So I'd better
4 reword that. There are a number of things going on
5 here. But what I ordered was that under 4320, under the
6 permanent support, that support would be at a particular
7 level until she received her share of the assets, at
8 which time it would reduce to zero. And so it is part
9 of what I'll call loosely permanent support, which is a
10 misnomer in itself. But trial support. And so that
11 that -- I retract what I said about temporary support.

12 The other thing is, because it appears that
13 there is likely to be an appeal here, it is intended
14 also to be the support that would be in effect pending
15 the outcome of the appeal. And I'm trying to avoid a
16 separate motion on that. Because one of the things that
17 may be appealed is the support. And so I need an order
18 that is in effect pending the appeal.

19 And I -- and so but this is a part of the 4320
20 package. And so I would call it permanent support even
21 though it's going to change automatically, if we ever
22 get to the point that she has access to her funds under
23 my division. And I -- so I don't -- it is not any
24 longer, I guess, a temporary order.

25 MR. HEISKALA: It's almost a type of step down,

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1 I guess.

2 THE COURT: In a way. In a way. I just was
3 anticipating -- normally I wouldn't have this kind of
4 arrangement. In fact, I can't ever recall doing it
5 before. But I just -- it did not seem to me that it was
6 likely that Mr. Shannahan was going to write a check to
7 Ms. Shannahan here or transfer over sufficient assets to
8 satisfy what her -- what I found her interest in the
9 community was.

10 And given the pace of other aspects of the
11 case, she still needs to live, and so I made these
12 orders. And I had a choice of keeping the temporary
13 order in effect, the \$3,000, and I elected not to do
14 that and to increase that amount to \$5000. Because he
15 was continuing to have the use of all of these assets,
16 as far as I can see, either directly or through the
17 various entities.

18 So, anyway, it's permanent support, and I
19 retract what I said earlier in thinking about it. I was
20 thinking of temporary in the sense that it would change
21 at some point, presumably. But it's still under Family
22 Code Section 4320.

23 MR. SILVERMAN: I appreciate the explanation.

24 THE COURT: Now, what else?

25 MR. HEISKALA: The other was in our preliminary

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1 discussion, you touched on the issue with the
2 reimbursement to the husband. We were objecting to his
3 having additional time and presentation of evidence.
4 And I think he found that --

5 THE COURT: Yeah. The only thing that I have
6 received on Mr. Shannahan, in spite of all the time that
7 we had to deal with this subject, at trial and
8 thereafter, was a declaration from Mr. Shannahan in
9 support of his claim for reimbursement. And he points
10 out in his declaration -- it's a very short declaration
11 consisting of two pages and signed April the 23rd of
12 2008 -- that I granted him reimbursement for the La
13 Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, certain JAM's fees, the
14 reporter's fees of \$8500, and medical expenses.

15 And I wanted verification that they were paid
16 from separate property and not community property. And
17 he simply states that the -- he had certain sources of
18 income and that all of the expenses, which were
19 enumerated above, were paid from either salary or
20 dividends which he received from his professional law
21 corporation and so forth.

22 I am finding that that is not sufficient, does
23 not meet the standard that I was asking for. He is
24 required to show specifically what was paid and in what
25 amount. And I'm not willing to give him additional time

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1 to do that. That's long past. So I'm not -- he is not
2 entitled to any additional reimbursement plan.

3 Okay. What else do we have?

4 MR. SILVERMAN: We were in the middle of
5 judicial liens.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Back to judicial liens. And
7 I'll hear from you, Mr. Silverman, on that.

8 MR. SILVERMAN: Thank you. Very simply,
9 Mr. Shannahan's position is that until an executable
10 order, in this case a judgment, is entered, that there's
11 no basis on which to issue whatever might be considered
12 a judicial lien. And the statute cited by
13 Mrs. Shannahan in her pleadings deals specifically with
14 post-judgment.

15 THE COURT: I agree with that position, and so
16 that's why I want to get the judgment entered. As a
17 preview of coming attractions, I know I granted judicial
18 lien at that time. I think I do need a judgment.

19 MR. HEISKALA: I would assume it could be
20 put -- or was taking a position that it would be put as
21 part of the judgment, that it would be issued within the
22 language of the judgment, that judicial lien would.
23 Just the same type of the contingency, basically, as the
24 support. At such time as she receives her share of the
25 assets, that she would have a judicial lien and I would

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1 also have a judicial lien.

2 Because part of their attack is that I don't
3 have the right FLARPAL {phonetic} or lis pendens or any
4 other protection. And as we've just discussed, the
5 assets in which she has an interest are held in the --
6 in different titles. And I want to make sure that she
7 is fully protected.

8 THE COURT: I think Mr. Silverman is correct,
9 though, that it's a two-step process. The judgment has
10 to be entered first. The other part of this, that I
11 don't know what the effect is of the judgment being
12 entered on a notice of appeal, does that prevent in some
13 way a judgment lien because it's not a final judgment or
14 a judicial lien? Or can I do it based on a judgment
15 before it's final? I'm not sure. And that's why I'm
16 reluctant to act on it all at once.

17 MR. SILVERMAN: I'm not sure either, your
18 Honor. And I'm reluctant to even state a position, let
19 alone give advice. I understand the Court's position.
20 It's a logical one. And in the normal collection, I
21 don't see that there would be a problem. But I'm not
22 expressing that as a problem with obtaining a lien,
23 despite the pending appeal. The judgment is enforceable
24 upon entry, unless there's a stay. And taking an appeal
25 from a judgment -- a payment of money is not stayed just

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1 by the filing of a notice of appeal.

2 THE COURT: That much is true. But isn't the
3 next step potentially a bond or something, in which case
4 the judicial lien wouldn't be there, but the bond would
5 be, arguably? And so I'm not sure what's going to
6 happen in that area. But that's why I think, though, it
7 has to be a two-step process.

8 But if -- I mean, if we determine -- and I'm
9 picking this number arbitrarily for a moment because of
10 my lack of certainty about the Brookmeade equity. But
11 let's assume that I determine that, overall, you're
12 entitled to \$3 million, all right, just to pick a
13 number, Ms. Shannahan.

14 Normally we would have that bonded in, what,
15 one and a half times? So that's a four and a half
16 million dollar bond. If that is up, then I'm not
17 concerned about a judicial lien. And that's why I'm
18 saying I think it's a two-step process.

19 But maybe we get the judgment. If I think it's
20 appropriate, there's a judicial lien. If they post a
21 bond, then I would vacate the judicial lien in favor of
22 the bond. Because I'd rather have the bond than -- I'm
23 claiming the judicial lien is protection enough on
24 appeal. Just assume stay away from that issue. And so
25 that's why I want to do it.

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1 But I just wanted the parties to be aware. And
2 I know Mr. Shannahan's not here personally. But that I
3 want Ms. Shannahan to have protection in one form or
4 another, whether it's a judicial lien, a bond or
5 whatever it is. So that there's a source from --
6 presumably from which to collect her money, and we don't
7 have a shell game where things are moving around again
8 and nobody can get to anything.

9 I'm particularly worried about the lack of
10 anything current involving the pension funds, which are
11 an asset that I -- that seemingly can't be transferred
12 into other names under the existing tax law. And so
13 it's something that actually is there that I think I can
14 deal with in this case, which is refreshing in itself
15 for me.

16 And there seems to also be enough there, the
17 last I knew, that it's adequate to satisfy the judgment
18 as it presently stands. Although, if we continue with
19 this, I'm beginning to wonder. So we do have that.

20 I intend to defer, just so we don't have to
21 come back on this, these requests for fees, sanctions
22 and so forth, because I think I'm going get a motion,
23 number one, to defend an appeal, if there is one, and it
24 appears there will be; and, number two, I would probably
25 like to see the result of that appeal ultimately in

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1 deciding on that issue whether -- in other words,
2 there's -- I have some problems with sanctioning or
3 ordering 271-type fees.

4 Mr. Shannahan -- only to find out from the
5 appellate court that Mr. Shannahan is right about
6 certain things, that I'm wrong, and, therefore, he
7 hasn't violated any fiduciary duties, just as an
8 example. So that's why I'm reluctant to get into that.

9 But I want to keep that ability to do that
10 there so that when we get all finished with this and the
11 dust settles and we look at how much this has cost
12 everybody, I can deal with it. And so but that to me is
13 the time to do that. I want to distinguish that from
14 the amount of money necessary to properly defend an
15 appeal if it is filed by Mr. Shannahan. And what I'm
16 about to say doesn't mean that I am right.

17 But I just want you to know, and I would
18 appreciate this being conveyed to Mr. Shannahan. In my
19 opinion, the most questionable part of my decision was
20 my determination that the tracing was adequate insofar
21 as these pension funds were concerned and the retirement
22 funds. And which is something that I resolved in favor
23 of Mr. Shannahan. And so I suspect if there's an appeal
24 here, there may well be a cross-appeal. And we'll just
25 find out who's more right about what I did.

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1 So I was hoping that we weren't going to go
2 that route, because so much money had been spent on this
3 litigation and so much time, that the idea of perhaps
4 extending it another two years or whatever it might be
5 involved, plus whatever affect the federal lawsuit has,
6 just seemed like not a good situation.

7 And I don't think at the heart of my
8 decision -- and this is not anything that's going into
9 any order -- but I don't think at the heart of my
10 decision, which is not that complicated, I basically
11 said that some of the retirement funds are
12 Mr. Shannahan's separate property because he brought
13 them into the marriage, and some of it is community
14 property, because they accumulated during the marriage,
15 together with the appreciation on them; and that I felt
16 that the two pieces of real estate acquired during
17 marriage, Virginia Way and Brookmeade, were community
18 property. That is all this judgment says. I realize we
19 divided up Mammoth, and we dealt with some other issues.
20 But at the core of this, that's all there is.

21 And then there is the support question. And in
22 a long-term marriage, where I recognize that
23 Mr. Shannahan at his age is entitled to retire and has
24 largely wound down his practice, maybe. That's less
25 than clear at times. And that as soon as you have an

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1 estate that is sufficient to provide for your reasonable
2 support somewhat consistent with the marital standard of
3 living, that in my view, there some not be a
4 continuation of spousal support under the existing law.

5 And that much of this litigation was, in my
6 opinion, unnecessary. And that it was appropriate for
7 Mr. Shannahan to make some contribution toward your
8 fees. And the final chapter in that book has not yet
9 been written. Now, to me that is not a complicated
10 decision. It is not something that needs a lot of
11 discussion.

12 And to me, which is probably unimportant, but
13 to me it seems fair, all right? Which is what I believe
14 family law is ultimately all about. Although we have
15 very strict rules to structure what is fair, I
16 nonetheless think that is reasonable based on this
17 marriage and the commitment that the two parties made to
18 each other and all of the tragedy that has surrounded
19 their children, particularly their son.

20 And for some reason, that doesn't seem to -- it
21 doesn't seem possible to put this to rest and get on
22 with something more constructive. And if the appellate
23 court, as an example, believes that there are various
24 errors here, and remands this back to someone else to
25 try and we start all over again, I suppose that that's

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1 possible.

2 I think, speaking of tragedies, that that would
3 be a tragedy. I don't mean the legal decision by the
4 appellate court. I mean the effect on the parties. And
5 to me that's the last thing we need. And I'm very
6 disappointed and discouraged by the federal litigation
7 and the idea that this case is going to potentially go
8 on for an extended period of time. So that is not what
9 I think is in anyone's interest. In fact, I know it
10 isn't.

11 But, the beat goes on. And, now, I guess my
12 question is: What else? The judicial lien, I would
13 want to have the judgment entered before there's a
14 request for judicial lien. And as I said, as a preview
15 of coming attractions, I would probably grant that until
16 we decide whether there is an appeal and whether it's
17 bonded or not.

18 MR. HEISKALA: And your jurisdiction in this
19 matter continues post-judgment to do that?

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MR. HEISKALA: Okay.

22 THE COURT: I do think, though, that beyond
23 that, there is a question of whether my underlying
24 appointment, once there's a judgment, ends. Not I
25 believe I can make an enforcement order such as a

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1 judicial lien relating to the judgment; but at some
2 point, I have to indicate that what it was agreed that I
3 would handle as a privately compensated temporary judge
4 is finished. And that normally ends with the judgment.
5 And at that end, obviously if there's a reversal on
6 this, it would be remanded.

7 What I'm not -- and normally that would be
8 retried by a different judge, traditionally. Although,
9 in my view, the appointing judge could decide that I
10 would do that also, as an example, could refer it back.
11 But I do think that I'm getting to the end of where I
12 lose jurisdiction here.

13 But we've got to have a judgment entered. And
14 I think the judicial lien question and also the decision
15 on appealing and whether their fees are on appeal, I
16 think that probably is also within my province, although
17 that's open to some question.

18 MR. SILVERMAN: Please don't take my silence on
19 either of those issues as a concession.

20 THE COURT: Yes. I'm not sure, either,
21 Mr. Silverman. And it may be that I think I have to --
22 that someone else has to make those two decisions. And
23 that I'm out of it at that point. I kind of -- or more
24 importantly in some ways, that I shouldn't be the one
25 making that decision.

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1 In other words, the appointing authority
2 perhaps has to decide whether it extends to include
3 those things under the wording of this. I'm not sure if
4 I get to decide how much power I have, in other words,
5 or whether that has to be back in the court system for
6 those two things. That is to say, protection under the
7 judgment and the fees on appeal, which I see are two
8 things that are definitely coming up.

9 MR. HEISKALA: Right. Absolutely.

10 THE COURT: And I agree with you. I'm not sure
11 where I stand on that. Generally speaking, we end it
12 with the judgment. But generally speaking, we don't
13 have sort of a known appeal hanging out there, which
14 is -- makes it more questionable.

15 All right. Is there anything else?

16 MR. HEISKALA: Well, getting back to the
17 putting together the judgment, we had discussed, both
18 off and on the record, the concept of the community
19 property and ownership and so on. And I had proffered
20 some language to clarify that in the judgment. I don't
21 know if your Honor's had an opportunity to look at that.

22 THE COURT: Well, I have. I have read all of
23 this. But you can prepare the judgment with whatever
24 language you want. And then it's either going to be
25 objected to or not. And then I will make that decision.

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1 And I think that's the better way to do that.

2 MR. HEISKALA: And just for the record, I
3 believe it was timely. It was a supplemental request.
4 It's not a new request. It was supplemental to the
5 first request, and it was served five days prior. I
6 would correct our record that it wasn't a new order to
7 show cause. That was an error that was filed that way.
8 It was simply a supplemental request within the five
9 days of the court hearing.

10 THE COURT: And I think as you know, whether
11 something is supplemental or not depends on the
12 magnitude of what's raised and how different it is and
13 whether it causes surprise and whether there's a due
14 process problem, from my standpoint.

15 And what they're raising is they're raising
16 things that there wasn't adequate time to respond to.
17 And it really expanded what was --

18 MR. SILVERMAN: That is Mr. Shannahan's
19 position is that it's a new motion. It's new material.
20 It was not supplemental. It was entirely new. The
21 moving papers did not have those six or seven proposed
22 paragraphs. Some dealing with issues not even mentioned
23 in the moving papers. But the Court understands our
24 position.

25 THE COURT: Yeah. And I agree with you.

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1 However, I agree with you in part. I still think they
2 can prepare the judgment the way they want it, and you
3 can object to it. And I will decide what I want to
4 sign.

5 But what I wanted everyone to know in advance
6 is that I did make a mistake on the gross value of
7 Virginia Way. And because I had -- that number had the
8 debt subtracted from it, and then it got subtracted
9 again, which was not correct. And that was my error.
10 And I do need to correct that.

11 As far as what language we need in the judgment
12 clarifying this ownership issue and so forth, I'm going
13 to -- I need to decide what language I think is
14 appropriate, whether it's Ms. Heiskala's or whatever
15 your side suggests, or if they do, and so forth. So
16 we'll be looking at those in connection with the
17 judgment. And I certainly agree we need to get a
18 judgment entered.

19 MR. HEISKALA: Without belaboring that point,
20 what triggered and brought that on was the statement in
21 the declaratory relief action that was filed in the
22 federal court. And I quote, paragraph 20 of that
23 complaint states: "On October 29th, 2007, the San Diego
24 Superior Court Family Law Division and Docket number --
25 issued a proposed statement of decision, holding that

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1 the Brookmeade property is, quote, 'currently owned by
2 legal entities which were not joined in this action,'
3 end of quote. Which finding was made after trial and
4 before the December 15, 2007, fire laws." And it goes
5 on.

6 So using that as a launching -- as I interpret
7 it, figuring if it's not federal court, wherever else
8 he's going to take that language and try to do something
9 with it needs to be clarified in this judgment.

10 THE COURT: Yeah. And that may be careless
11 wording, and it would have been better to say "titled"
12 as distinguished from "owned by," given my determination
13 of community property ownership.

14 MR. HEISKALA: And the fees and the -- or in
15 the proposed final judgment, we were granted a \$150,000
16 attorney's fees. That remains, and I'm hearing the
17 Court also say that there would be more fees determined
18 after the appellate process.

19 THE COURT: Well, as far as I'm concerned, from
20 the point that I made the determination of \$150,000
21 forward, is fair game for a request for additional fees
22 at the end of this. I did not intend to revisit the
23 breaches of fiduciary duty that occurred leading up to
24 the judgment, unless I get some new direction from the
25 appellate court.

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1 And what I mean by that is that in my view,
2 there is sufficient acknowledgement of that if
3 Ms. Shannahan gets her interests, her share of the
4 judgment free and clear from all these problems with the
5 titles and so on, and it is Mr. Shannahan that is left
6 with all of that, that to me is enough of a
7 consideration or a sanction for -- I'll say -- or
8 damages for breach of fiduciary duty -- however you want
9 to put it -- for the fact that he put all of these
10 things in various titles and in trusts or legal and
11 other legal entities that Ms. Shannahan had no
12 significant interest in.

13 That if he's sort of left with that problem on
14 his side, then as far as I'm concerned, that's been
15 addressed. And he can address it into the future
16 however way he wants. But that assumes that I can get
17 Ms. Shannahan's share of the estate out to her clean,
18 also. In other words, free of -- that it is a division
19 that under the Tax Code is free of consequences to her;
20 that it is in connection with the dissolution, and
21 therefore exempt under the tax code, being taxed.

22 And I can now -- obviously, the form of these
23 assets will have built into them certain problems so
24 that if, as an example, we roll these out into an IRA or
25 we segregate them in some way, that there are no tax

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1 consequences at that point. But as we all know, as that
2 money is taken out, there is tax to be paid on it. And
3 that, of course, would be her responsibility at that
4 point.

5 But what I don't want is her to have a tax
6 consequence based on the division between the two of
7 them, as distinguished from what she chooses to do with
8 her share of the assets when she has control of them.
9 And, obviously, there aren't going to be penalties in
10 taking them out, presumably. We have some age
11 protection. But it is subject to income tax.

12 And at some point there will start to be
13 mandatory withdrawal requirements from those funds,
14 which I'm sure she's aware of.

15 MR. HEISKALA: So is the Court -- am I hearing
16 the Court saying it's okay for him to satisfy, say,
17 Brookmeade, for instance, one half of \$4.1 million with
18 the same dollars out of a retirement account? And then
19 she pay the tax on it? Is that what I'm hearing?
20 Because I think that's the way he's going to hear it.

21 THE COURT: Well, probably. Yes. Yes. In
22 other words, what else is there within the estate?

23 MR. HEISKALA: I mean, there's no discount
24 taken against the monies out of the IRA account. He's
25 receiving dollars in a real property, and she's

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1 receiving dollars out of an IRA account that we know are
2 taxable, but we don't know what the tax consequences
3 are.

4 THE COURT: I have to look at -- I don't think
5 I can get money out of Brookmeade very easily, owned by
6 Northwest Financial -- and there's that word again,
7 "titled" in Northwest Financial -- without presenting a
8 whole litany of problems. And so to me, the most liquid
9 funds we have or the most accessible by far are the
10 pension funds.

11 MR. HEISKALA: I understand.

12 THE COURT: And I have no idea how
13 Mr. Shannahan is going to untangle those other things,
14 if he ever will. He probably would not in his lifetime.
15 Probably just leave them the way they are, I would
16 suspect. But I don't know that.

17 And, again, I see so many things that could be
18 done through a cooperative effort here, that are not
19 being done, to make an intelligent division of this that
20 would be beneficial to both of them. But given that I
21 don't have that level of cooperation and that everything
22 seems to have to be litigated and decided through the
23 adversary process, what I'm going to do is take the most
24 accessible liquid funds that I have control of and
25 satisfy the judgment from that.

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1 Now, I realize that some taxes will be paid
2 down the line as that's taken out. But it seems to me
3 that Mr. Shannahan has a lot bigger problems than that
4 with the form of the remaining assets. I mean, how
5 they're titled, and also getting any actual money out of
6 them without paying taxes. He's done a very good job of
7 deferring things. But he hasn't avoided them --

8 MR. HEISKALA: Oh, no.

9 THE COURT: -- by any means. And but if he
10 continues to be one step ahead of the IRS, he can
11 certainly -- he's shown a great skill for continuing to
12 defer them. And that's fine. I think he enjoys that,
13 actually. It's an intellectual challenge to him. We
14 had some accountants that it was an intellectual
15 challenge to them. It became a problem of ours,
16 eventually, because the IRS decided eventually they
17 weren't going to -- they didn't care what the rules had
18 been. They were different now, and that was too bad.
19 So, you know, sometimes I think you can outsmart
20 yourself a little bit.

21 But, anyway, you're correct in stating that
22 I -- I alluded to that, I believe, in my statement of
23 decision. I think that is -- I would prefer that those
24 funds be divided more evenly and that she get Virginia
25 Way, as an example, because I think that's a more

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1 intelligent way of doing it. But that can only be done
2 with everybody's cooperation, I think.

3 And if we're not doing that, then we're going
4 to do it all through retirement. And it is true, I
5 realize in most cases, you would certainly rather have
6 cash in the bank than outside a retirement plan than a
7 retirement plan. But I would rather have retirement
8 funds than this real estate that is held -- that is
9 titled in all these different names with the
10 interlocking debts between them, or interrelated debts.
11 I wouldn't much want to have that set of assets,
12 personally.

13 MR. HEISKALA: I understand that part. And,
14 then, there's just one final. I understand also your
15 anticipation of the request for fees on appeal, which
16 absolutely there would be. But, meanwhile, there's this
17 federal litigation that she's been named in as a
18 defendant. And she's not been served yet, I don't
19 believe.

20 MS. SHANAHAN: No, I haven't.

21 MR. HEISKALA: We'll have to have
22 representation, I'm assuming, if it continues to go
23 forward. And I would ask for fees for that action. I
24 don't intend to do anything with it. But she's going to
25 have to have somebody for that.

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1 THE COURT: Well, I'm not going to make an
2 order like that at this point. But it is true that
3 under the Family Code of related action, there is the
4 power in whoever the judge is to make that kind of an
5 order, if they so choose. And I think that's the risk
6 that Mr. Shannahan runs with proliferating the
7 litigation with appeals and with federal actions and so
8 forth.

9 It's an interesting question that I haven't
10 seen an example of, but there may be one, where the
11 collateral litigation is outside of the state courts and
12 is in a federal court. If that makes any difference.
13 Because the ones I've seen generally are state court
14 actions, and they have allowed fees to be ordered.

15 There's also some question: Do you have to
16 incur the fees and then come into the family court
17 action and say I want to get this back now, or can it be
18 like a 20 -- Family Code Section 2030 award that
19 anticipates the ability to litigate into the future?
20 And I'm not sure what the answer to that is, as an
21 example. So I have some concerns about that.

22 But, ultimately, I think the Court does have
23 the power probably to order fees in the collateral
24 litigation, in some stage, anyway.

25 MR. SILVERMAN: But that's not before the Court

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1 today.

2 THE COURT: Oh, no, it's not. But you can see
3 it coming on the horizon here. And the Family Code
4 Section 2030 deals with the fact that the Court has the
5 power to order fees on appeal, as you know. But these
6 collateral actions is authority for those kinds of fees,
7 also. So it can be defended. And this is certainly an
8 interrelated action that falls into that category, I
9 would think.

10 But I'm not sure what the appropriate time to
11 do that is. I don't know whether that has to be done by
12 when it's over or if it can be done along the way to
13 have funds to defend it. I don't know if it has to be
14 brought by the new attorney. And I certainly can't
15 prejudge whether it would be granted. So those are all
16 interesting questions, but not before us today.

17 MR. HEISKALA: Well, I did file for fees and --

18 THE COURT: I know.

19 MR. HEISKALA: And I outlined she had these
20 various fees, including Bill Sullivan, over the
21 insurance issue.

22 THE COURT: I just think, Ms. Heiskala, that
23 when she hasn't been served in the action and we don't
24 even know who'll be representing her, it wouldn't
25 surprise me if this went anything in the range of being

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1 summarily dismissed to being taken pretty seriously and
2 involve a lot of legal work. And it would be really
3 hard to anticipate at this stage what is a reasonable
4 fee for that until we know how the federal court intends
5 to proceed. Sometimes they simply will not get involved
6 in family law.

7 I also do not know, when this judgment
8 clarifies the ownership question, if that is the
9 building block on which he filed this. And it may be
10 that it crumbles on that basis. I'm not sure about any
11 of these. But we're just discussing hypothetically,
12 here, right now, and that is -- that can always get me
13 in trouble. So maybe we'll stop the hypothetical
14 discussion.

15 Is there anything more that needs to be dealt
16 with here?

17 MR. SILVERMAN: Nothing from the Respondent.

18 THE COURT: And let's see, then, if Ms.
19 Heiskala can come up with something.

20 MR. HUBER: I think we've covered it, your
21 Honor.

22 MR. SILVERMAN: Actually, if the Court give me
23 just one second. I did come in with a list.

24 THE COURT: Okay.

25 MR. HEISKALA: And I don't want to put you on

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1 the spot. But I do need your -- I'm not sure I had it
2 clarified in the beginning as to what your role is
3 and -- because the letter says special appearance.

4 MR. SILVERMAN: You do not have to serve me
5 with anything. I'm here on behalf of John Morris and
6 Darvy Mack Cohan. You are welcome to just continue
7 however you were dealing with both of those gentlemen.
8 And I will make sure -- you are welcome to deal with
9 them directly as if they were here. And I will make
10 sure that each of them gets a full report. And,
11 actually, I will be talking to Mr. Shannahan, also, in
12 their absence, because I was asked to call him this
13 afternoon.

14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

15 MR. SILVERMAN: That's everything on behalf of
16 Respondent. Thank you, your Honor.

17 MR. HEISKALA: Thank you.

18 THE COURT: Thank you all, then, for your
19 courtesy here. And that concludes our proceedings
20 today.

21 (The proceeding was concluded at 12:10 p.m.)

22

23

24

25

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